



# Kemble and Ewen Parish Council: Minutes

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Kemble Village Hall on Friday 7 May 2010

Present: Councillor R Pettit, Chairman  
Councillor D Ball, Vice-Chairman  
Councillor W Cole  
Councillor G Collins

Councillor S Lawbr  
Councillor G Somerville  
Councillor S Sorabjee

In attendance: F Garnet-Lawson, clerk, plus 25 residents of the community

Speakers  
Shaun Parsons, County Councillor  
John Birch, District Councillor  
Roger Pettit, Parish Councillor  
Sally Turner - Kemble Youth Club

### 1. Apologies for absence:

Tom Barrow; Cecil Cleverley; Mr & Mrs Owen

**Action**

2. **Approval of minutes from Annual Parish Meeting** held on Friday 8 May 2009 were approved and signed. (proposed G. Collins seconded D. Ball)

### 3. Matters arising from those minutes:

3.1 Church Road pavement : SP reported that there were insufficient funds for this type of work for the foreseeable future . Matter closed.

3.2 Transferability of Cotswold town centre car park tickets: JB reported that this was not possible. Matter closed.

3.3 Speeding Windmill Road: this remains an issue for residents, but Glos Highways state that it was not sufficiently extreme to require further action at this stage. Matter closed.

3.4 Thameshead road/rail bridge: not a priority for action, and insufficient funds for this type of work for the foreseeable future. Meanwhile the road markings have been renewed and improved. Matter closed.

3.5 CLEUD judgement report finally received in March 2010. Matter closed.

3.6 Footpath Clayfurlong Grove to Thames Bridge: RP reported that residents feedback places this at the top of the list of desired projects. KEPC will get quotes and put money aside to complete the work when sufficient funds have been raised.

**KEPC**

3.7 Community policing and cold calling area Church Road: revitalised neighbourhood watch team and community police team in place although formal cold calling area has not been extended.

3.8 Two members of the Cotswold Water Park have recently been arrested on charges of mismanagement and fraud.

3.9 JB reported that segregated recycling waste (esp. paper and card) was not being mixed, and the colours of the contractors collection bins had been changed to avoid confusion. Matter closed.

- 3.10 The CDC nor the GCC has an intention of financially supporting the Cotswold Canal Project, although they will ensure that the line of the canal is protected against planning intrusion. Matter closed.
- 3.11 The plan to turn off certain street lights around the village during the early hours has taken place, with a resulting saving across the county of £70,000.

## Reports

action

### 4. County Council: *County Councillor Shaun Parsons gave his report*

The County Council continues to be squeezed financially by increased requirements for expenditure on education and children's services on the one hand and a growing elderly population on the other.

Roads are also a major area of expenditure due to the snow and frost this year combined with an historic backlog of repairs due to underfunding over the previous 20 years. Despite this, the tax increase for this year is below the current level of inflation and any future tax increase are likely to remain small due to pressure from central government.

SP acknowledged that side and rural roads are in appalling condition, but stated that the county's priority was to ensure that the main highways were safe. He knows that repairing potholes is not a satisfactory long-term solution, and although the county is taking a long-term approach on repairs wherever possible it is unlikely that the situation on local side roads in the village will improve this year due to lack of funds overall.

With regards to residents' parking concerns due to commuter rail traffic, SP stated that any yellow line or residents' only scheme required signage, road markings and surveys. Due to the cost and potentially controversial nature of any such scheme Glos County will only consider it if it has the support of the parish as a whole. The station car parking area may be increased following discussions with Great Western trains.

KEPC

THE new road barriers along Kemble Wick Road were installed by Glos Highways on behalf of Network Rail, as Network Rail's own cost following the removal of the trees and a subsequent risk assessment. This is part of a national scheme to national standards. However, SP acknowledged that there had been no consultation and that the barriers look too prominent for the nature of the road.

The discussion which followed concluded that SP, JB and KEPC (within reason) would give their support to the local residents who want to pursue a meeting with Network Rail and Glos Highways about the status of the barriers; and the processes followed to erect them in the first place. An online petition is in place for residents to sign if they wish.

SP to investigate

Suggestions were made about growing vegetation around them or painting them.

### Questions from residents:

- If funds are that tight, can the mowing of verges be reduced? And what about continuing to ensure that draining ditches are kept clear?
- Why are Gloucestershire roads so poor in relation to those in the rest of the country - you can see the county line in the tarmac! SP replied that this was due to the historic neglect of the county's roads over many years, and that it would take

SP

many years to return them to a satisfactory standard again.

- Why was the amount spent per child on education so low in Gloucestershire in relation to the rest of the country? SP agreed that it was not desirable - but although Gloucestershire was in the bottom 5% for expenditure, it was in the top 5% for performance. He pointed out that it was unlikely that the central government would provide funding to change this situation because it would mean in practice that money would be taken away from other counties instead. SP
- Kemble track dualling - SP reported that there was still a shortfall in funds to dual the track between Cheltenham and Swindon, and that it was not certain that this programme would go ahead. SP

5 **District Council:** *District Councillor John Birch gave his report*

JB is to resign as a cabinet member for planning, heritage, conservation and design; but will remain as ward councillor and on the CDC planning committee.

JB also mentioned the tight financial pressures that the CDC was under this year, and that the council was constantly investigating ways to reduce overheads and cut costs. One aspect of this will be to rearrange the waste collections, and that residents will shortly hear if their collection day is to change.

JB thanked residents for recycling, and noted that CDC remains the best recycling district in the county, and is ranked as the second in England. The CDC hopes to launch a door-step scheme for recycling plastic bottles only, towards the end of the calendar year. He agreed that re-use was a stage further on than recycling, but that this would require national co-operation from retailers.

The car parking in Cirencester is still to be decided following a public consultation process. It is likely that the length of time that parking is charged for will change but this is not yet confirmed. JB agreed that the psychology of parking meant that paying on exit was better for retailers as shoppers stayed longer, but that this would mean installing manned exit barriers in all car-parks.

6 **Parish Council:** *Chairman Roger Pettit gave his report*

RP reported that two councillors (Glen Moreman and Sally Turner) had resigned this year, and that the village orderly Brian Robins had also resigned. He thanked them and the current councillors for all their work and contributions throughout the year, and wished them success in their wider roles. The parish looks forward to continuing to work and support Sally in her work with the Youth Club.

Graeme Reay has been appointed as the new Playground orderly.

He also thanked Pete Measures for maintaining the cemetery; Brian and Pat Ayres for all their many actions; Steve Marsh for maintaining the web site and Penny Wheeler and the new team for their hard work producing the parish newsletter. He also thanked Tom Barrow and June Lawlor for starting the clean-up campaign and sought volunteers for this and the Traffic Action group.

He mentioned the successes the Traffic Action group has had with the new village gates which seem to be contributing to encouraging traffic to note the speed limit on the A429;

it is also working hard with Glos Highways on the problems of rat runs through Kemble and Ewen, and parking around the station. He praised the consultative approach used with the new Parkers bridge and thanked the Kemble Farms team for building the new pedestrian bridge over the Thames at this point.

The community garden initiative continues to involve many parts of the wider community, and is currently talking to the CDC about extending the lease which runs out in 2012. The neighbourhood watch team, headed by Peter Burns and Withiel Cole is now well established and working well. We have seen improves responsiveness from the community police team, which is also working closely with the Youth Club and Community Gardens teams.

The council is concerned about proposals by the airfield to extend the non-flying activities and want to ensure that residents are kept fully informed and consulted. There was some discussion about the proposal amongst the residents present , but it was agreed that a public meeting specifically for this purpose was the best way to express opinions on this. RP stressed that the main thing was to ensure that residents had access to accurate and relevant information, and were consulted before Wiltshire County made decisions, as this the planning application would be decided by Wiltshire, not Gloucestershire.

- 7 Finance:** the clerk gave the financial report and explained the differences in spending in comparison to this year. The preferred village project for this year is to build a permissive path to the station from Clayfurlong road, but that the council would have to save up enough money to do this.

Residents were reminded that they can ask to inspect the end of year accounts and other public documents and invited them to ask the clerk for a suitable appointment if they wished to do so.

**8 Kemble Youth Club - Sally Turner**

The new Youth Club is had a very good start, and is aimed at children of secondary school age -11- 16. The club meets twice a month, and aims to have activities that will develop skills and achievements, as well as to entertain and occupy the youth. They are hoping to build a broadly based committee to run the group, and are seeking additional volunteers to help and make the administration easier by spreading it out amongst more people.

Activities so far have included sports, a trip to Stroud bowling, a disco and making bird boxes. Some also visited the Royal Ag for some cookery lessons - which were very successful. Sally and her team would welcome any ideas of someone with a skill who is prepared to come and talk to the kids for one evening.

They are actively fundraising as well, and she thanked everyone for their support so far at coffee mornings, donations and sales.

**9 Any Other Business:**

- Church Road street lighting: an additional light is requested by the surgery, as it is very dark there during the winter months.
- Requests were made for additional volunteers to help with the Traffic Action Group.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm